



2-3 News 2004
annual award winners
4 Commentary
UCMJ spells out law
5 Feature Making the
top - new chiefs inducted

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Airmen return from tsunami missions

Humanitarian aid missions continue

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Approximately 130 members of the 374th Airlift Wing returned home Jan. 27 and 28 from relief missions supporting Operation Unified Assistance in Southeast Asia.

Yokota servicemembers served as part of the 374th Air Expeditionary Wing based out of Utapao, Thailand. They spent 30 days providing humanitarian aid throughout the region after deadly tsunamis were triggered by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake Dec. 26, 2004.

"This wasn't a mission we normally train for, but it's one we're always ready to carry out and I would congratulate both our maintainers and aircrews for the quick way they responded to get the airplanes ready," said Col. Mark Schissler, commander of the 374 AW and 374 AEW. "Even given the bad weather after Christmas, we were able to get our airplanes out within a 24-hour period. And when they got there, they were ready to fly and deliver goods in less than a day."

Colonel Schissler commanded all airlift forces deployed for Operation Unified Assistance, which at the height of operations, consisted of approximately 18 C-130 Hercules located at five different bases throughout the theater. The majority of 374 AEW members came from several Pacific bases with more support from bases within the United States.

"Our folks did an absolutely magnificent job backed up by our maintainers who kept the airplanes in first-class shape," said Colonel Schissler. "Our particular squadron (the 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron) flew with 99.8 percent mission reliability. Out of 115 missions, we were able to launch 114 to deliver humanitarian aid – I am extremely proud of their accomplishments."



photo by Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik

36th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, Staff Sgt. Joshua Mackey and another Yokota member offload a C-130 propeller onto a 60K loader as Pacific Air Forces' tactical airlift control element member from Yokota, Staff Sgt. Sam Vanderbogart watches. They, and nearly 130 other Yokota members, returned home Jan. 27 and 28 after more than 250 were deployed Dec. 28, 2004 in support of relief efforts in Southeast Asia after tsunamis devastated six countries in the region Dec. 26, 2004. Yokota members flew approximately 115 missions airlifting more than 1,400 tons of relief supplies and 1,500 personnel to and from the countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Thailand.

Although he returned to Yokota Jan. 28, Colonel Schissler will remain in command of the 374 AEW until the unit is officially stood down after the last of the servicemembers supporting the airlift mission return.

"The last four planes, six aircrews and 40 or so maintainers will remain in place until the last of the air-

lift work is completed," said Col. Schissler. "I expect the expeditionary wing to stand down after the last of our members and aircraft return. This was truly an international, military and, eventually, a civilian effort to provide recovery and a very important mission for the people affected who survived the tsunamis."

CMSAF introduces new Airman's handbook

Publication helps new troops learn foundations of Air Force

By Master Sgt. Chuck Roberts
Air Force Print News

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – If Airman Basic Rachel Redel ever forgets who presented her with one of the first two copies of Airman Air Force Handbook 1, she can find the answer on Page 15: "Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald R. Murray"

If the 23-year-old basic trainee is curious about what her occupational badge will look like when she graduates basic training in a few weeks and later completes 27 weeks of technical training at Eglin Air

Force Base, Fla., she can check it out on Page 210: "Career Fields, Occupational Badges, Explosive Ordnance Disposal"

That was the intent of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, who conceived the idea for a pocket-sized book of-fering new Air Force accessions – officers, enlisted, civilians – everything they need to know to pass "Air Force 101."

General Jumper's vision came to fruition Jan. 31 when Chief Murray, the Air Force's top enlisted Airman, dropped in on a classroom of basic trainees to personally present the first two copies to Airman Redel and Airman Basic Thomas Collins Jr.

You are the first in the Air Force to receive the new Airman handbook," Chief Murray told the gathering of basic trainees of the 326th Training Squadron in their fourth week of basic training. "I wish we'd had something like this when I started my career. It's really a foundation of what we do in the Air Force."

The blue paperback handbook offers "big pictures" and little words to blend together the four pillars of the Air Force: character, honor, personal integrity and patriotism throughout its 360 pages.

Chief Murray encouraged the basic trainees to use the handbook as a means of continually increasing their overall knowledge.

The more you learn about this great Air Force, the more doors it opens up," he said.

The handbook encompasses a broad expanse of military information broken into

six sections, covering topics such as "Air Force Top 10 Aces," "Air Force Vocabulary," "CONOPS" and "Medal of Honor Recipients." The handbook falls under the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Airman Redel said there is one thing she will not need the book for – to remember the surprise at being picked to receive her copy from Chief Murray. She had known for a few days that he would be making a guest appearance, but she did not find out until 10 minutes before his arrival that she would personally receive an autographed copy from him.

"I feel very honored," said the Sierra Vista, Ariz., native. "It's something I'll never forget and will keep with me the rest of my career."

Annual Samurai award winners announced

Seven honored as best of best for 2004

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

Each year Yokota's best and brightest shine at the annual 374th Airlift Wing annual awards banquet.

Dozens of nominees gathered in the Enlisted Club's Oshawa Ballroom Jan. 20 to celebrate their accomplishments in 2004.

The winners go on to compete at the 5th Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet March 10 at the Enlisted Club.

Nominees were judged on their leadership and job performance in their primary duties, how they have improved themselves through the past year, and their involvement with the base and community. Several of the winners have been quarterly award winners or have been recognized by Pacific Air Forces or their section as outstanding members.

The following Airmen and civilians are the annual award winners for the 374th Airlift Wing:



Tech. Sgt. Leyla Gillett

Tech. Sgt. Leyla Gillett is the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of laboratory services with the 374th Medical Support Squadron, and the 374th Airlift Wing Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. She masterfully directed seven diverse sections and oversaw \$47,000 worth of procedures.



Capt. Kelli Roche

Capt. Kelli Roche is the installation readiness flight commander in the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and the 374th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Year. She piloted the wing's top SORTS program, which was benchmarked during the 2004 Unit Compliance Inspection.



Senior Master Sgt. James McNeer

Senior Master Sgt. James McNeer is the superintendent of Systems Control/Facility Control Office-Japan in the 374th Communications Squadron, and the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He oversees 64 personnel who have maintained a 99.98 percent reliability on 1,900 circuits.



Ms. Hiromi Takeshita

Ms. Hiromi Takeshita is a T56 Engine Repair Center maintenance supply liaison with the 374th Maintenance Squadron, and the 374th Airlift Wing Category I Civilian of the Year. She manages a budget worth \$19.4 million for three bases and two major commands.



Senior Airman Cory Anderson

Senior Airman Cory Anderson is an emergency services technician with the 374th Medical Group, and the 374th Airlift Wing Airman of the Year. He is entrusted with noncommissioned officer shift-leader and healthcare duties for more than 2,000 patients.

Senior Master Sgt. Dwight Eddings

Senior Master Sgt. Dwight Eddings is the 374th Communications Squadron and 374th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, and the First Sergeant of the Year. He has 730 military and 138 civilian personnel under his responsibility, resolving more than 1,200 troop issues.



Mr. Tetsuaki Nihei

Mr. Tetsuaki Nihei is the fire protection crew chief with the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, and the 374th Airlift Wing Category II Civilian of the Year. He is the east district senior fire officer, and is in charge of a four-person crew that protects 500 housing units from fire and medical calls.

Officials launch 'Healthy Choices for Life' program: WASHINGTON (AFP) – Defense Department

officials are launching a new preventive health-care program called "Healthy Choices for Life," the department's senior medical adviser said here Jan. 26.

The purpose of the Tricare-managed program is to inform individual servicemembers and family members so that they can change their behavior.

The program will focus on persuading people to quit smoking, moderate drinking habits, exercise and lose weight.

For more information about the program, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/healthychoices/.

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

Officials reschedule OTS boards: RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) – Because of fiscal 2005 Air Force force-shaping efforts, the nonrated (both non-technical and technical) portions of the March 28 and May 10 Officer Training School selection boards will meet in August, officials announced Jan. 27.

The rated panels for these boards will convene as scheduled, AFRS officials said.

For more information concerning OTS and the application process, active-duty Airmen can contact their local education office.

Cadets to sing at Super Bowl XXXIX: U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFP) – Air Force Academy

cadets will join fellow service academy cadets to sing the national anthem to kick off Super Bowl XXXIX.

The 25-voice Cadet Chorale will join with cadets from the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club, West Point Choir and U.S. Coast Guard Academy Choir to perform in Jacksonville, Fla., on Feb. 6.

This is the first time in 30 years that all four service academies will be singing together. The last time was in 1973 for President Nixon's inauguration. The last time the Cadet Chorale sang at a Super Bowl was in 1972.

AD

Kensei warriors earn recognition

Four Airmen to compete at 5th AF annual awards

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

Much like their Samurai counterparts, the Kensei warriors

showed off their sharp troops at the annual 374th Airlift Wing awards banquet.

Four Airmen were selected from the hundreds who support

the tenant units here that include the 605th Air Operations Group, 730th Air Mobility Squadron, and 20th Operational Weather Squadron. U.S. Forces-Japan and 5th Air Force personnel are also counted among the tenant unit numbers.

Similar to the wing award winners, the tenant winners were

also judged on leadership and job performance in their primary duties, self-improvement, and their involvement with the base and community.

The Kensei winners will join the Samurai representatives at the 5th Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet to compete at the numbered Air Force level.



Airman 1st Class Jeffrey McGrath

Airman 1st Class Jeffrey McGrath is an Air Force intergovernmental accounting technician with the Defense Finance and Accounting Services-Japan, and the Yokota Air Base Tenant Airman of the Year. He flawlessly processed 1,233 Defense Cash Accountability System payment vouchers valued at \$1.4 million. He redesigned two databases to support a \$50 million billing process, reducing processing time by nine days.



Master Sgt. Rodney Gaither

Master Sgt. Rodney Gaither is the superintendent of supply contingency operations at the 605th Air Support Squadron, and the Yokota Air Base Tenant Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He filled a major's billet for 110 days as the 5th Air Force chief of supply, managing \$375,000 fuel account with 100 percent accuracy. He masterfully secured \$2.2 million chemical warfare posture supplies in Pacific Air Forces.



Staff Sgt. Janet Saunders

Staff Sgt. Janet Saunders is the executive assistant to the U.S. Forces-Japan and 5th Air Force command chief master sergeant, and the Yokota Air Base Tenant Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. She was hand-picked by the 5th AF vice commander to deploy to the American Embassy in Djibouti, Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is the driving force for the 5th AF Outstanding Airmen of the Year program.



Capt. Laura Ramos

Capt. Laura Ramos is the officer-in-charge of air freight at the 730th Air Mobility Squadron, and the Yokota Air Base Tenant Company Grade Officer of the Year. She commands a 280-person flight that hunkered down for a Japan-bound Typhoon Chabe with zero operation impact. Captain Ramos also carefully orchestrated load operations for air evacuations including two missions with 10 patients successfully transported.

Helping troops 'adjust' to ease

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The Defense Department's senior medical adviser said troops redeployed from combat zones should suffer no stigma for seeking help for emotional problems.

Some troops who have returned from duty tours in Afghanistan or Iraq are experiencing symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

He said medical officials learned that servicemembers were exhibiting symptoms such as chronic nervousness, anger or depression months after they had returned to their home bases from deployments to combat theaters.

Troops who believe they may be having trouble adjusting after returning from combat-zone duty should not be afraid of being stigmatized when they seek help.

For more information, servicemembers can contact their primary healthcare physician or call Life Skills at 225-3566.

(Information was contributed to this article by 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

AD

UCMJ spells out rights, punishments

Area Defense Counsel advises base Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Alana Vollmer
Area Defense Counsel

“Keep yourself out of trouble.”

In my 15 years of service, I have pondered this subject more times than I can count.

It seems logical: don’t do things that you know you’re not supposed to do, right?

It’s not always that simple.

Every day I see people whose one-time small mistake is now putting them in the unflattering spotlight of their commander’s vision and jeopardizing their military careers.

How many of you out there reading this knew that any statement you make can be used against you? You’re all saying, “Duh.” But do you realize that doesn’t just apply to written statements that you make on a copy of AF Form 1168 – it also means verbal, written and e-mailed statements you make to your spouse, co-workers,

roommates, supervisors, or any link of your chain of command? Not to mention any statements that you make to Security Forces, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, U.S. civilian police, or Japanese national police.

Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice states that you cannot be forced to make any statements that may be self-incriminating, officials have

to tell you what you are being “charged” with, and you have been advised that making a statement can be used against you.

We’ve all been told since basic training that being cooperative is in our best interest. Here’s a little known fact: investigators can lawfully engage in trickery when questioning a suspect. Yes, it’s lawful and no, there’s nothing you can do about it.

It is human nature for us to want to defend ourselves and put our version of events out there. Just remember that even innocent people with nothing to

hide have the right and should exercise that right, to counsel prior to making a statement. If you want to make a statement, that’s fine. The Area Defense Counsel will make sure it’s the truth with no “prosecutorial spin.”

When you’re read your Article 31 rights or asked to consent to a search, the wise person always invokes their rights until they get the chance to talk to the ADC. This is your career we’re talking about here. You owe it to yourself and your family to be fully advised by the ADC before saying anything that may tend to incriminate you.

‘Top 10’ ways to stay out of trouble

- ✓ *Don’t get so inebriated that you’re not in control of yourself anymore.* You will do something you’ll regret later.
- ✓ *Don’t ever use drugs.* Ask yourself: is it worth my career, \$20,000 G.I. Bill, and a criminal record?
- ✓ *Don’t lie.* There’s no such thing as a “little white lie.” Say nothing at all when questioned or tell the truth.
- ✓ *Live within your means.* If you can’t afford \$2,000 rims, then you don’t need them.
- ✓ *Be likable and valuable.* Good troops get breaks because they’ve earned them.
- ✓ *If you want to fight, take a Tae-Bo class.* Don’t use fellow service members as punching bags.
- ✓ *Always be squared away and 10 minutes early.* Your uniform, haircut, military bearing and punctuality really do reflect who you are.
- ✓ *Treat everyone with respect.*
- ✓ *Don’t hang out with idiots* – you’ll eventually get blamed for what they have done.
- ✓ *Always ask for an attorney when you are read your rights.*

Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Linda Ferrell
374th Communications Squadron

Who would you select to be “Person of the Year for 2004?”

My list would be long, the men and women killed in Afghanistan, and the men and women of the armed forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in Iraq.

A half page is not nearly enough to celebrate the many accomplishments, achievements, and other significant events of the previous 12 months that occurred in our world, in the Air Force and our own community. What were your own personal accomplishments?

Yokota had five chief-selects in 2004. If you are enlisted, at some point in your career thoughts of becoming a chief surface. At first, as an airman basic and even a senior airman it may be hard to visualize. And your number one question to a chief is, “When did you know you wanted to become a chief?”

What is it that drives us toward something that once seemed utterly impossible whether

it be the rank of chief, a new job, getting married, having children, owning a home or getting fit?

If you stay in long enough there will come a point in time when the unthinkable begins to look attainable. And you will see the answer is really very simple. But think about the fundamentals, the Air Force promotion system has not changed in 15 years, the institution of marriage goes back to Biblical era, regular exercise helps you get fit, training and more education will lead you to a new job. How do we get to those personal accomplishments is the question? Accomplishments happen because you change. Experience and opportunity will change you.

Your attitude is your only barrier to the type of experience you will have in life. The way you think determines the way you feel, and the way you feel will influence the way you behave. Opportunities can be disguised in the worst assignment you have ever had, the worst boss, or the most boring job you have ever had to do.

Change is not automatic. It takes commitment. You must want to change, decide to

change, make an effort to change and persist in changing. It is human nature to resist change. That is why mentorship is so important. We learn a lot from watching others, from listening to others, more than we would ever learn on our own.

I was selected for chief in 2002. I remember my colleagues and friends that I had remained in contact with e-mailed or called to say, “I always knew you would make chief.” It seemed that they knew what I could accomplish before I did. I clearly remember the ones who mentored me. During my young and sometimes not-so-young rebellious times they were the ones who told me what I needed to hear, not what I wanted to hear.

My experiences and opportunities began as an airman basic in aircraft maintenance and cumulated in being a chief in the communications career field. Those were opportunities, not obligations and experiences.

As you consider what you were then and who you are now, think about the changes and challenges that will result in personal accomplishments.



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The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

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DUI Prevention

Jan. 25 – Feb. 1	1
Total DUIs in January	2
Total in 2005	2

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed. E-mail action.lines@yokota.af.mil.

Col. Mark Schissler
374th Airlift Wing Commander

Making the grade: Yokota members inducted into Air Force's top enlisted rank during ceremony Jan. 29



Left, Senior Master Sgts. Jeffrey Wilson and Jesse Hall recite the chief's oath Jan. 29 as Heather Bradow stands in Chief Master Sgt. Michael Bradow's place while he is deployed. Below, Senior Master Sgt. David Niehaus accepts his certificate of induction plaque after his wife Judy is presented flowers. Lower right, all the chiefs gathered together for a picture commemorating Chief Bradow's promotion and selection to become the next "Jeep Chief," as the newest chief master sergeant promotee effective Feb. 1.

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In a ceremony rich in tradition that goes back decades into Air Force history, the Yokota Chief's Group welcomed five new senior noncommissioned officers into its ranks Jan. 29 at the Chief's Induction Ceremony in the Enlisted Club ballroom.

The induction ceremony celebrates the inductees' transition into the top enlisted rank. Because only one percent of all Airmen will ever earn the rank of chief, the selection process is tough. Those few selected become the next generation in this elite tier of the enlisted corps.

The five Yokota chiefs making this transition include Chief Master Sgt. Michael Bradow, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Senior Master Sgts. Jeffrey Wilson, 374th Maintenance Squadron, David Niehaus, 36th Airlift Squadron, Lawrence Cole, 374th Operations Support Squadron, and Jesse Hall III,

Detachment 10, Air Force News Agency.

"The induction represents formal recognition of reaching an incredible point in the enlisted corps," said inductee Sergeant Wilson. "It is an achievement of the highest enlisted rank, the acknowledgement of the work and sacrifices made to reach this pinnacle and the realization that this is the beginning of a whole new level of responsibility. It means acceptance into an elite corps, but also our acceptance of the responsibility of even greater involvement in taking care of our Airmen and the Air Force mission."

The road to chief master sergeant is long, requiring those who strive to attain that goal to put a lot of work into various aspects of Air Force life. This includes achieving education goals, becoming masters of their career fields, being active in their communities and helping other Airmen reach their potential.

"If you want to become a chief, do it for the right reason and start early," said inductee Chief Bradow. "When you are given the chance to lead or follow ... lead. It's important to be involved in Top 3, Air Force Sergeants Association and other associations, but being a 'member' is not enough. Don't do anything for the recognition – if you perform well enough, accolades will come your way. Finally, an individual does not reach the pinnacle of the enlisted ranks by themselves – don't forget where you started."

Sergeant Cole, one of the inductees, explained why he wanted to become a chief. "I knew I wanted to be a chief when I signed up for the Air Force back in 1981. My father

is a retired Air Force senior NCO and I've always wanted to follow in his footsteps and serve my country."

According to the history of the chief master sergeant, the word chief means, "one who is highest in rank or authority," the word master means, "a teacher and a mentor," and the word sergeant means, "any of several ranks of noncommissioned officers, appointed to a rank conferring leadership."

Sergeant Hall offered advice to others striving to make chief, "Treat your troops with patience and respect, and make their career development as important as your own. Also, be well-read and educated, and make your leaders' priorities your own."

During this year's event, one of the chief inductees, Chief Bradow, was absent due to a deployment. That didn't stop the chief's group from recognizing the chief and his family's hard work and sacrifices though, as Chief Bradow's wife Heather stood in his place during the ceremony.

"Standing in for me at the ceremony was a very difficult thing for her to do," said Chief Bradow. "She has supported me unconditionally and I couldn't have asked for greater support. I asked her to stand in my place because she was absolutely instrumental in each of my successes in which this is the culmination. I'm currently on my fourth extended 'all paid vacation' to the desert since 1996 and I couldn't have stayed in all these years if she wasn't able to make adjustments while I was away."

The induction ceremony ended on a high note as all the chiefs gathered with Heather Bradow and a sign congratulating her husband's promotion and a small jeep for his recognition as the "Jeep Chief." The jeep is presented to the newest promoted chief and its care and upkeep is a traditional rite of passage for all new chiefs accepting the responsibilities of becoming a chief master sergeant.

The inductees offered advice and thanks to everyone who helped them on the road to their success, but one particular phrase offered by Senior Master Sgt. David Niehaus, 36th Airlift Squadron, summed up why the chief exists in the Air Force today.

"As a chief, my only goal is to do whatever is possible to make sure our enlisted are the best trained and equipped troops in the world. And as a chief it is all about the troops ... without them nothing else will happen."



AD

Off base

Feb. 13 – The Fussa-Yokota Friendship Club is hosting a free Fussa-Yokota Friendship Concert at the Fussa Civic Hall at 4 p.m. The concert will feature the Pacific Air Forces' Pacific Showcase and the Fussa Brass Band. The civic hall is a five-minute walk from the Supply Gate toward Ushihama Station. For more information, call 042-551-2927.

On Base

Movies

Today – *Are We There Yet?*, PG, 6 p.m., *Blade: Trinity*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *Are We There Yet?*, PG, 6 p.m., *Blade: Trinity*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday – *Are We There Yet?*, PG, 2 p.m., *Ocean's Twelve*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Blade: Trinity*, R, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Ocean's Twelve*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Are We There Yet?*, PG, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Blade: Trinity*, R, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. For more information, call 225-8708.

Outages

The following locations will experience power outages Feb. 20 between 8:20 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.: Buildings 1238, 1239, 1240, 1243, and 1245.

The entire west housing area will experience heating and domestic hot water outages Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information about these outages, call the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron at 225-7740 or 225-2524.

Closures

The Taiyo Recreation Center and West Youth Center will be closed Feb. 12 due to a scheduled heating and hot water outage.

The Yokota Commissary will be closed Monday and Tuesday for its annual inventory. The commissary will reopen Wednesday at 9 a.m. for regular business hours.

YCC ramp closure

The Yokota Community Center ramp is closed 8 to 11 a.m. daily and open with one-lane of traffic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The closure continues through Feb. 8.

Volunteers needed

The American Red Cross* is looking for volunteers to help at the Air Mobility Command terminal here. For more information or to volunteer, call 225-8631.

The Yokota Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization* has postponed its antique and collectible auction Feb. 26. The auction has been rescheduled to May 14. Volunteers who would like to help out can contact YMS at 225-9671 or e-mail riers@yta.attmil.ne.jp.

Tax season

The Yokota Tax Center opens Monday in Tower 3002 in the west housing area. The center will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community members who are filing 1040EZs will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. Community members who are filing all other forms must make an appointment, which begin Feb. 14. For more information, call 225-4926.

Volunteers are needed to serve as Unit Tax Assistants. Community members are encouraged to support this program. Military volunteers should contact their

first sergeant and civilian volunteers should contact the base legal office at 225-8069.

Give Parents a Break

Community members can sign up for the Feb. 26 "Give Parents a Break" program through Feb. 18. The program gives parents with deployed spouses time off while their children are watched by the Children Development Center for free. For more information, visit the Family Support Center or call 225-8725.

Meeting

The Computer Users Group of Yokota* is holding a local area network party beginning 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Yujo Recreation Center. For more information, visit www.cugy.net.

Valentine's Day events

The Enlisted Club is holding a Valentine's Sweetheart dinner special Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$59.95 for two with a Members First discount. For more information or to sign up, call 227-8820.

The Officers' Club is hosting a Valentine's dinner and show Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. The evening includes complimentary gifts and photos. The cost is \$75 per couple with a Members First discount. For more information or to sign up, call 225-8526.

The Tama Lodge is hosting a seven-course Sweetheart Dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required. For more information or to serve seats, call 224-3409.

The base library is hosting a Valentine craft activity Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call 225-7490.

The Enlisted Club is sponsoring a special Valentine's Kids Klub Wednesday from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Children under 12 eat free, and adult meals cost \$9.95 with a Members First discount.

Youth of the Year

Kensei Warrior



of the Week



Staff Sgt. Mike Reynolds

Staff Sgt. Mike Reynolds, 20th Operational Weather Squadron, is this week's Kensei Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Kensei essential attitudes of "the Way is in training" and "know the ways of all professions."

As a lead meteorologist, he is responsible for all mission-planning weather products produced for U.S. Forces in Japan and Korea. He is a master certifier for all squadron operations duties. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree while maintaining a 4.0 average, in addition to finding time to teach English as a second language and serving food to the local homeless.

Teens can apply now for the Air Force Youth of the Year program. Yokota's selected representative will be invited to attend the Annual Air Force Youth of the Year Program and Ceremony June 20 through 25 in Washington, D.C. Yokota teens currently enrolled in school between the ages of 13 and 18 are eligible to apply. Applications may be picked up at the Yokota Teen Center. Contact Will Beasley for more information at 225-6793.

Self-help store

The base Samurai self-help store has changed its hours to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

It will remain open during wing exercises Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Comedy tour

The "He Said, She Said" comedy tour is coming to the Enlisted Club Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. The show is open to all ranks. For more information, call 227-8820.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel
Catholic: Reconciliation, Sundays at 8:45 a.m., 4:45 p.m. and by appointment. Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m., 5 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service at 6:30 p.m.

Other faiths: Baha'i, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel
Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

Other faiths: Seventh Day Adventist, second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 9 a.m.; Islam, Fridays at noon.

For more information on the chapel schedule, call 225-7009 during duty hours.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. All POs and PO activities are not endorsed by or affiliated with the US Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

Did you know?

The South Overrun will be closed Feb. 11 from noon to 5 p.m. to all traffic. Community members should seek alternate routes during this closure.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“What are you going to wear in the game Sunday?”

Julie Brown, questioning Emmitt Smith before the 1993 Super Bowl

Football: The Yokota Raiders tackle football team is looking for new players, coaches and managerial staff. The first meeting will be in February. All SOFA-status personnel are welcome to participate. No experience necessary. For more information, e-mail jacob.dowdell@yokota.af.mil or wolff.j@poem.ocn.ne.jp.

Wrestling show: International Championship Wrestling will visit Yokota Feb. 26 and 27. Tickets for both adult and family shows go on sale Feb. 14. For more information, call 225-3308.

Baseball: The Yokota Thunder Baseball Club is recruiting players for the upcoming season. All ID card holders and base employees are eligible to play. For more information, call 090-3500-0343 or e-mail mohrvictor@yahoo.com.

The Yokota Hawks Baseball Club is seeking four players to fill out their 2005 roster. The club plays at several area tournaments. Games last through November. Tryouts will be held Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. at Yokota Field. Participants must be 18 years or older to play. For more information, e-mail dcapps@asia.umuc.edu or call 090-1949-7796.

Natorium: The base Natatorium will be closed Thursday from 5 to 11:30 a.m. for water survival training. It will reopen after the training. For more information, call 225-6133.

Runners sweat out ‘Frostbite’

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

More than 7,000 Japanese and American citizens braved chilly winds to run the 24th annual Frostbite road race Sunday.

This year’s Yokota Striders’ event was held in memorial of the organization’s founder, (ret.) Chief Master Sgt. David Thomas, who passed away Nov. 1, 2004.

The “Frostbite” featured a 2K children’s race, 5K adult race and adult half-marathon.

The top male runner for the 5K was Tomoaki Nishikawa with 15:41. The top female runner for the 5K was Shoko Furukawa with 19:03.

The top Yokota runners were Lt. Mark Hagan, 374th Comptroller Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Robert Wicks, 374th Airlift Wing command chief; Col. Mark Schissler, 374th Airlift Wing commander; and Akemi Thompson.

The youngest 5K runners were Ryunosuke Tankioka and Misaki Ogi, both seven years old. The oldest runners were Hachiro Yabe, 90 years old, and Yone Saito, 78 years old.

The top male runner for the



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

Thousands of Japanese and American runners take off from the half-marathon start Sunday during the 24th annual Frostbite road race. This year’s race was dedicated to the Yokota Striders’ founder.

half-marathon was Takashi Nakata with 1:09:13, and the top female was Hisae Kanda with 1:24:21.

The top Yokota runners were Master Sgt. William Ryan, 35th Operation Support Squadron; Maj. Randall Bartlett, 20th Operational Weather Squadron; Senior Master

Sgt. Walter Humko, 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron; and 1st Lt. Elizabeth Welliver, 20th OWS.

The youngest half-marathon runners were Shun’ichi Kanno and Reona Hara, both 13 years old. The oldest runners were Sohachi Kurahashi, 81 years old,

and Eiko Tamura, 77 years old.

The “Frostbite” and other Yokota Striders events are held to raise funds for club members to run races throughout Japan. The club donates 50 percent of their profits to local organizations and scholarships.

Are you ready for some Super Bowl?

It’s time again for the sports showdown known as the Super Bowl. Check out the following events to celebrate this great American sports tradition. For more information, visit or call the base facility that is hosting the event. Watch SVTV-12 for event updates.

Super Bowl tailgate party

Join the Officers’ Club for a genuine tailgate party in the club’s Samurai Lounge. The fun begins at 5 p.m. today. The hamburgers, hotdogs and music is free.

Super Bowl special

The Yujo Recreation Center features a big-screen view of the football game of the year Monday. Starting at 7 a.m., community members can share in the hard-hitting action, great prizes and delicious food.

Super Bowl XXXIX

Here is the football party you have been waiting for. It starts at 6:30 a.m. and doesn’t stop until 1 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Club member get in free, along with a complimentary breakfast buffet. Look forward to beverage specials and door prizes, along with a grand-prize drawing for a big-screen television.

The Officers’ Club is putting on a party of its own Monday at 6:30 a.m. The food and fun is free to club members, in-

cluding a grand-prize drawing for a 57-inch plasma-screen television.

Super Bowl party

A party just for sports’ widows. The Yokota Arts & Crafts Center is offering food, creativity and painting Monday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. ‘Sports widows’ can paint a piece of bisque ware while catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. The cost is \$10 per person. To sign up, call 225-9044.

AD